

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07  
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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0253  
USCINCEUR/VAIHINGEN GERMANY//ECJ5 IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 DAKAR 4817

FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: MASS, XX, SG  
SUBJECT:ASSESSMENT OF US SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR  
FY 1979 - SENEGAL

REF: STATE 133136

### 1. OVERALL ASSESSMENT AND SUMMARY:

MISSION BELIEVES THAT MODEST U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM IS IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF OUR OVERALL STRATEGY FOR  
ADVANCING AMERICAN INTERESTS IN SENEGAL. THESE INTERESTS,  
AS IDENTIFIED IN MISSION'S PARM SUBMISSION (DAKAR 2698),  
INCLUDE SECURING AND RECOGNIZING SENEGALESE COOPERATION AND  
SUPPO

T ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES OF  
CONCERN TO U.S., PROMOTING NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
AND MAINTAINING MILITARY AND CIVIL ACCESS TO DAKAR'S  
STRATEGICALLY SITUATED COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION  
FACILITIES.

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AS NOTED IN PARM, "PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S STATURE AS AN  
AFRICAN ELDER STATESMAN, HIS PERIPATETIC PERSONAL  
DIPLOMACY AND HIS LONG-ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIPS WITH  
WORLD POLITICAL AND INTELLECTUAL LEADERS GIVE SENEGAL A  
DEGREE OF INFLUENCE EXCEEDING THAT JUSTIFIED BY ITS...  
(PHYSICAL) RESOURCES. SENEGAL'S ENCOURAGEMENT OF A MIXED

ECONOMY AND A DEMOCRATIC DIALOGUE MEDIATE

ON AND 'DYNAMIC

COMPROMISE' IN THE FOREIGN POLICY ARENA, LEAD IT TO EXERCISE  
A GENERALLY MODERATING AND CONSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE IN  
AFRICAN AND NON-ALIGNED COUNCILS."

IN THIS ROLE, SENEGAL HAS HELPED MOBILIZE AFRICAN  
OPPOSITION TO ARAB MOVES TO EXPEL ISRAEL FROM UNITED  
NATIONS, HAS APPLAUDED AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM, HAS  
SUPPORTED DIALOGUE RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION OF INTER-  
NATIONAL ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, HAS PUBLICLY ENDORSED AMERICAN  
INITIATIVES VIS-A-VIS RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA AT CRITICAL  
JUNCTURES, VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED ZAIRE DURING SHABA INVASION,  
AND HAS LED AFRICAN OPPOSITION TO FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN  
WAKE OF CUBAN-SOVIET INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA (WHOSE MPLA  
GOVERNMENT SENEGAL HAS DECLINED TO RECOGNIZE UNTIL IT  
BECOMES LESS DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN SUPPORT).

SENEGAL ALSO RESPONDED FAVORABLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY TO  
NUMBEROUS U.S. REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT OF MILITARY SHIPS AND  
AIRCRAFT UTILIZING EXCELLENT FACILITIES OF DAKAR. THIS  
INCLUDED IMMEDIATE AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO U.S. REQUEST  
FOR REFUELING OF MAC CHARTER AIRCRAFT AIR-LIFTING  
EMERGENCY SUPPLIES TO ZAIRE DURING SHABA INVASION.

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AT SAME TIME, SENEGAL'S COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC  
PLURALISM, ITS GOOD RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS, ITS CLOSE  
ATTACHMENT TO THE UNITED STATES ON CULTURAL PLANE, AND  
ITS CENTRAL ROLE IN AMBITIOUS PLANS TO REVERSE DESERTIFI-  
CATION IN SAHEL AND SENEGAL RIVER VALLEY AREA OFFER  
FURTHER PERSUASIVE RATIONALES FOR SYMPATHETIC AMERICAN  
RESPONSIVENESS TO SENEGALESE NEEDS.

SENEGALESE SECURITY CONCERNS ARISE FROM PROFOUND  
APPREHENSION OVER DESTABILIZING IMPACT OF EXPANDING SOVIET  
INFLUENCE IN AFRICA. THIS PERCEPTION HAS BEEN AT ROOT  
OF SENEGALESE REACTIONS TO EVENTS IN ANGOLA, ZAIRE,  
SOUTHERN AFRICA AND OTHER TROUBLE SPOTS. FEAR THAT  
MODERATE AFRICAN STATES WERE BEING ISOLATED IN HOSTILE  
ENVIRONMENT HAS PROMPTED SUCH SENEGALESE INITIATIVES AS  
RECENTLY INAUGURATED NON-AGGRESSION AND DEFENSE PACT  
BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE FRANCOPHONE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC  
COMMUNITY (CEAO) AND RESOLUTION VOTED AT RECENT  
LIBREVILLE OAU SUMMIT CONDEMNING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN  
AFRICA. IN PARTICULAR, AS NOTED BELOW, SENEGALESE FIND  
IT DEEPLY DISQUIETING TO BE ENCIRCLED BY STATES WHERE  
THERE IS EITHER SIGNIFICANT SOVIET/CUBAN INFLUENCE OR, IN

ONE CASE, WIDENING GUERILLA WAR.

SENEGALESE OFFICIALS HAVE ACCORDINGLY CONCLUDED THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN MODEST EXISTING MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME 9,000 MEN. IN THIS EFFORT, SENEGAL BELIEVES THAT ITS PROMINENT ROLE AS A LEADER OF MODERATE AFRICA ENTITLES IT TO LOOK TO WEST FOR SUPPORT. TRADITIONALLY, THIS HAS MEAN FRANCE, WHICH CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN 1,500 MILITARY PERSONNEL IN SENEGAL, BUT DAKAR IS ALSO LOOKING ELSEWHERE--PARTICULARLY TO U.S.-- FOR LIMITED TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT WHICH SENEGALESE BELIEVE AMERICANS ARE BEST QUALIFIED TO SUPPLY. HOWEVER, AS PRESIDENT SENGHOR SUGGESTED TO AMBASSADOR AGGREY DURING LATTER'S JULY 7 FAREWELL CALL (DAKAR 4639), SENEGAL IS CONCERNED  
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THAT AMERICAN EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH GOOD RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN LEADERS OF ALL PERSUASIONS MAY CAUSE US TO BECOME PREOCCUPIED WITH RADICAL STATES UNSYMPATHETIC TO AMERICAN INTERESTS WHILE NEGLECTING FRIENDS SUCH AS SENEGAL, WHO HAVE PROVIDED SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR U.S. OBJECTIVES.

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0254

USCINCEUR/VAIHINGEN GERMANY//ECJ5 IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 4 DAKAR 4817

MISSION BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO U.S. INTERESTS IN AFRICA NOT TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE PLAYED BY MODERATE STATES SUCH AS SENEGAL. IF US POLICY OF ENCOURAGING AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS IS TO SUCCEED, WE MUST ENSURE THAT INFLUENTIAL MODERATE COUNTRIES SUCH AS SENEGAL HAVE CONFIDENCE TO CONTINUE SPEAKING OUT FOR MODERATE COURSES OF ACTION AND CONCILIATORY SOLUTIONS. AMERICAN FAILURE TO RESPOND TO SENEGAL'S MODEST REQUESTS FOR DEFENSE ASSISTANCE COULD DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTE TO SENEGALESE CONCLUSION THAT ITS PUBLIC POSITIONS IN SUPPORT OF WESTERN INTERESTS ARE NO LONGER TENABLE IN AREA INCREASINGLY DOMINATED BY SOVIET UNION AND AFRICAN STATES COMMITTED TO RADICAL AND/OR VIOLENT SOLUTIONS TO CONTINENTAL PROBLEMS.

AS SET FORTH IN PARM, OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE TO SUSTAIN SENEGAL'S CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS AND ITS MODERATING INFLUENCE ON NON-ALIGNED, AFRICAN AND GROUP OF 77 POSITIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES, AND TO ENCOURAGE SENEGAL'S ROLE AS A FORCE FOR STABILITY IN AFRICA AND AN OPPONENT OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION IN AFRICAN DISPUTES. IN POLITICAL DYNAMICS OF PRESENT-DAY AFRICA, MODEST  
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AMERICAN DEFENSE ASSISTANCE WILL BE ESSENTIAL FOR THESE OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED. THE MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. WORK CLOSELY WITH SENEGALESE TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF \$8 MILLION FMS CREDIT FOR CIVIC ACTION ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT, THAT WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR SENEGALESE MILITARY AS NEEDED, THAT WE RESPOND FAVORABLY TO SENEGAL'S REQUEST FOR \$1 MILLION IN IMET INSTRUCTION--INCLUDING PILOT TRAINING, AND THAT WE BE PREPARED TO GIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO FUTURE SENEGALESE REQUESTS FOR MODEST AMOUNTS OF APPROPRIATE TRAINING OR CONVENTIONAL EQUIPMENT.

## 2. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL:

### A. THREAT:

SENEGAL'S EXPECTATIONS OF INCREASED SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA CLOSELY PARALLEL OUR OWN (STATE 50086). AS NOTED ABOVE, SENEGAL PERCEIVES A DIRECT THREAT FROM THE PRESENCE OF SUBSTANTIAL SOVIET/CUBAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN SURROUNDING COUNTRIES. FOREMOST OBJECT OF CONCERN IS GUINEA, WHOSE PRESIDENT REGULARLY ALLEGES THAT SENEGAL IS MAKING INVASION PREPARATIONS AGAINST HIM AND URGES THAT HIS SENEGALESE COUNTERPART BE CAST INTO "TRASHCAN OF HISTORY." SENEGALESE POLICY IS TO IGNORE

THIS RHETORIC INsofar AS POSSIBLE, TO INVITE OUTSIDERS TO VISIT SENEGAL TO AFFIRM GROUNDLESSNESS OF CHARGES, AND TO CONTINUE TO HOLD DOOR OPEN TO RESUMED COOPERATION WITH GUINEA WHENEVER LATTER IS READY.

NEIGHBORING GUINEA-BISSAU ALSO HAS SOVIET EQUIPMENT AND ADVISORS AND SOME CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL. THOUGH RELATIONS WITH BISSAU ARE OFFICIALLY CORDIAL, SENEGALESE  
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EXPRESS CONCERN THAT NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRY WITH MINUSCULE CADRE OF TRAINED PERSONNEL CANNOT BE DEPENDED ON TO DETER SOVIETS AND CUBANS FROM UNAUTHORIZED ADVENTURES. MALI TO EAST IS EQUIPPED WITH MIG-21S AND SOVIET TANKS AND HAS LARGE CONTINGENT OF SOVIET ADVISORS. MAURITANIA, ON SENEGAL'S NORTHERN BORDER, IS FACED WITH INCREASINGLY SERIOUS GUERILLA WAR WAGED BY ALGERIAN-SPONSORED POLISARIO.  
SEEN AGAINST PERCEIVED SOVIET INTENTION OF EXPANDING SPHERE OF INFLUENCE IN AFRICA, SENEGALESE FEEL THEY CANNOT IGNORE RING OF SOVIET ACTIVITIES SURROUNDING THEIR BORDERS. SOME SENEGALESE BELIEVE THIS PATTERN REFLECTS LONG-TERM SOVIET INTEREST IN PORT OF DAKAR AND OTHER STRATEGICALLY PLACED INSTALLATIONS ON SENEGAL'S CAPE VERDE PENINSULA. IN MORE IMMEDIATE TERM, THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT EFFORT MIGHT BE MADE TO USE SENEGAL AS RESUPPLY CORRIDOR FOR HOSTILE ACTIVITIES IN SURROUNDING COUNTRIES. THERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS THAT THAT MAY

ALREADY HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTED ON SMALL SCALE IN CONNECTION WITH POTISARIO WAR (NOUAKCHOTT 1392).

SENEGALESE ARE THUS CARRYING OUT GRADUAL BUILDUP TO DOUBLE SIZE OF ARMED FORCES, BRINGING THEM MORE IN LINE WITH LARGER DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENTS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. SENEAL HAS ALSO COMMENCED GRADUAL MODERNIZATION PROGRAM OF OUTDATED EQUIPMENT. HOWEVER, ARMED FORCES ARE DEFENSIVE IN NATURE AND DO NOT POST OFFENSIVE THREAT. (THEY ARE EQUIPPED WITH NEITHER TANKS NOR JET AIRCRAFT, ASIDE FROM SEVERAL FOUGA MAGISTER TRAINERS.) SENEGALESE INTENTION IS TO BE PREPARED TO FEND OFF ATTACK FROM ANY NEIGHBOR, AND PLANNED PERSONNEL BUILDUP AND MODERNIZATION PROGRAM SHOULD MAKE THIS POSSIBLE, BARRING MASSIVE INTERVENTION BY EXTERNAL POWER.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 4 DAKAR 4817

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

AT SAME TIME SENEGALESE ARE MAKING CALCULATED EFFORT  
TO ENGAGE ALL NEIGHBORS IN EXPANDING NETWORK OF FUNCTIONAL  
COOPERATION WHICH, IT IS HOPED, WILL HELP TRANSCEND  
POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES. THESE PROGRAMS  
INCLUDE DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITHIN  
ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SENEGAL RIVER VALLEY  
(OMVS) AND WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (CEAO) AND  
ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULTATIVE MECHANISMS ON  
FISHING, LAW OF SEA, COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION AND MANY  
OTHER AREAS. RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF CEAO NON-AGGRESSION  
PACT ON SENEGALESE INITIATIVE IS RELATED TO THIS STRATEGY.  
WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO FATHOM LONG-RANGE SOVIET INTENTIONS  
IN REGION, MISSION BELIEVES SENEAOALESE ACTIONS TO UPGRADE  
PRESENT MODEST MILITARY FORCES REPRESENT NO MORE THAN  
PRUDENT RESPONSE TO EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES. ONLY  
ALTERNATIVES ARE POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WHICH,  
AS PRECEDING INDICATES, SENEGALESE ARE ALSO USING TO  
MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE.

B. N/A  
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C. SENEGALESE MILITARY ENVISIONS FORCE OF ABOUT 15,000 MEN  
NOT INCLUDING GENDARMERIE AND POLICE. SENEGAL IS NOT TRYING  
TO OBTAIN SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT, BUT MOST PRESENT MATERIEL  
IS OLD AND OUTDATED AND NEEDS TO BE REPLACED WITH MODERN  
EQUIPMENT. SENEGAL DOES NOT HAVE OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY NOR

DOES IT INTEND TO OBTAIN ONE. DOUBLING OF NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AND MODERNIZATION OF EQUIPMENT IS CONSIDERED COMPLETELY DEFENSIVE IN NATURE. BULK OF STRENGTH OF ARMED FORCES IS IN ARMY, WITH NAVY AND AIR FORCE PLAYING SUPPORTING ROLE.

U.S. INTERESTS WARRANT SUPPORT OF THIS DEFENSE EFFORT WHERE POSSIBLE. ENGINEER BATTALION WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY EQUIPPED BY U.S. IN MID-SIXTIES IS PRIME EXAMPLE. THIS UNIT HAS BEEN USED MAINLY IN AREA OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUPPORTING CIVILIAN NATION-BUILDING ACTIVITIES. EXAMPLES ARE: ROAD CONSTRUCTION; BUILDING OF AIRFIELDS; AND CONSTRUCTION OF IRRIGATION DITCHES, HOUSING, CTASSROOMS AND SHOPS. THIS CONSTRUCTION HAS SPED FLOW OF RAW MATERIATS FROM OUTLYING SECTORS OF COUNTRY TO CITIES AND PORTS AND HAS AIDED DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMER GOODS TO INTERIOR OF COUNTRY. THIS EFFORT TO TIE DISTANT REGIONS MORE EFFECTIVELY INTO HEART OF COUNTRY HAS IMPORTANT SIGNIFICANCE FOR SENEGAL'S CONCERNS OVER BORDER SECURITY. SENEGAL HAS EMBARKED ON REPLACEMENT PROGRAM FOR EXISTING ENGINEER EQUIPMENT BY OBTAINING \$8 MILLION CREDIT FROM USG FOR FY-77. MISSION PERCEIVES NO ALTERNATIVES WHICH MAKE MORE SENSE OR ARE LESS COSTLY. SENEGALESE ARE MOVING CAUTIOUSLY AND PRECISLY IN IMPLEMENTINO EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS.

D. AT PRESENT SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT FORMALLY  
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APPROACHED USG FOR DEFENSE ARTICLES OR SERVICES OTHER THAN ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING OF SOME OFFICERS AND NCO'S IN CONUS. ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT IS IN FORM OF FMS CREDIT, AND TRAINING WOULD BE UNDER IMET GRANT AID ARRANGEMENT. PROFESSIONAL TRAINING REQUESTED INCLUDES ADVANCED ENGINEERING COURSES, ADVANCED ARTILLERY, ADVANCED ARMOR, LOGISTIC MANAGEMENT, AND INTELLIGENCE COURSES. IN ADDITION SENEGAL HAS REQUESTED TRAINING OF ABOUT 15 PILOTS. MAJORITY OF THIS TRAINING IS FOR MULTI-ENGINE PILOTS TO ENABLE SENEGALESE TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE THEIR SEVEN (7) US ORIGIN C-47/DC-3'S.

MISSION ENVISAOES APPROXIMATELY \$25,000 A YEAR IN FMS CREDITS OR CASH FOR SPARE PARTS AND REPLACEMENT ITEMS FOR ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT AND TWO LCM BOATS PROVIDED BY US. MAINTAINING COSTS WILL PROBABLZ APPROXIMATE \$275,000 ANNUALLY. THIS BREAKS DOWN TO TRAINING TWO MULTI-ENGINE PITOTS A YEAR AND PROVIDING SIX OR SEVEN OFFICERS AND NCO'S WITH PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.

MISSION'S CONVICTION THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE SERVES US

INTERESTS WAS SET FORTH ABOVE. US SUPPORT AS DESCRIBED REPRESENTS MINIMUM NECESSARY TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO PAST SENEGALESE SUPPORT FOR U.S. INITIATIVES, AND TO ENSURE THAT SENEGAL CONTINUES TO ESPOUSE WITH VIGOR POSITIONS WHICH CONVERGE WITH AMERICAN INTERESTS. MISSION BELIEVES US SHOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO FURTHER REQUESTS FO

M R MODEST TRAINING OR LIMITED EQUIPMENT WHICH MAY BE UNEXPECTEDLY GENERATED BY SENEGATESE IN FUTURE.

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E. DAKAR 4378, RESPONDING TO STATE 122750, COMMENTED ON BUDGETARY IMPACT OF SENEGALESE ARMED FORCES' FIVE-YEAR MODERNIZATION PLAN. MESSAGE PLACED MILITARY OPERATING BUDGET AT AROUND \$35 MILLION IN RECENT YEARS, NOTED THAT MILITARY INVESTMENT BUDGET WAS NOT PUBLICLY AVAILABLE, BUT CONCLUDED THAT SENEGALESE DEFENSE OUTLAYS HAVE BEEN MODEST AND HAVE NOT HAD DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON NATIONAL ECONOMY. MILITARY HAS HAD POSITIVE IMPACT ON ECONOMY IN CERTAIN AREAS THROUGH JOB SKILL TRAINING AND CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS. MISSION DOES NOT EXPECT THIS APPROACH TO CHANGE RADICALLY IN FUTURE, ASSUMING CONTINUITY OF PRESENT POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES. FACT REMAINS THAT SENEGAL IS POOR COUNTRY WITH PER CAPITA INCOME IN VICINITY OF \$300 PER ANNUM, AND SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONARY ELEMENT IS CUSTOMARY PART OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS IN DEFENSE AS WELL AS OTHE FIELDS.



F. MISSION DOES NOT BELIEVE USG OR CIVILIAN PERSONNEL WILL NEED TO BE ASSIGNED IN-COUNTRY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTED MILITARY ASSISTANCE. USDAO SHOULD BE ABLE TO  
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HANDLE ALL TRANSACTIONS CURRENTLY ENVISAGED.

G. THESE DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. FRANCE HAS BEEN AND REMAINS PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER OF SENEGALESE EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING. MOROCCO IS ALSO OFFERING SOME TRAINING. HOWEVER, SENEGALESE MILITARY BELIEVES THAT EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING REQUESTED FROM U.S. IS OF BETTER QUALITY THAN THAT AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE, AND IS NECESSARY TO SUPPLEMENT LIMITED AVAILABLE SLOTS IN FRANCE. SENEGAL WOULD PROBABLY TURN TO FRANCE OR OTHER COUNTRIES IF U.S. IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE REQUESTED SUPPORT, BUT U.S. REFUSAL WOULD REPRESENT SIGNIFICANT SET-BACK FOR SENEGALESE/US RELATIONS.

H. REQUESTED U.S. ASSISTANCE AND AID FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WILL ASSIST SENEGAL IN OBTAINING DEFENSIVE PARITY WITH SURROUNDING COUNTRIES. ALL OF ARMED FORCES SURROUNDING SENEGAL ARE LARGER AND EQUIPPED WITH MODERN SOVIET/BLOC/PRC WEAPONS WITH EXCEPTION OF MAURITANIA, WHICH IS ENGAGED IN A WAR WITH SOVIET/ALGERIAN-BACKED POLISARIO. MAURITANIA'S ARMED FORCES ARE LARGER BUT SUPPLIED BY WESTERN POWERS. NO WESTERN AFRICA ARMS RACE SHOULD DEVELOP.

I. RELATIONS BETWEEN SENEGAL AND U.S. ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES ARE EXCELLENT AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO IMPROVE. SENEGAL WELCOMES U.S. INITIATIVES IN THIS AREA AND IS PROUD OF ITS HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD AT HOME (SEE STATE 141268 AND DAKAR 4379). THERE SHOULD BE NO EFFECT ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES IF THIS SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS DENIED.

J. MISSION BELIEVES THAT ONCE DEFENSIVE PARITY WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IS OBTAINED AND SENEGAL FEELS MORE SECURE, IT MIGHT ENDORSE U.S. POLICY OF RESTRAINT IN  
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TRANSFER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS. SENEGALESE WOULD BE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SUCH POLICY IF THEY FELT COMPARABLE OBLIGATION COULD BE MADE BINDING ON SOVIETS. SENEGAL'S IMET REQUESTS HAVE TURNED TOWARDS PROFESSIONAL TYPE TRAINING. SENEGAL WOULD PROBABLY NOT PURCHASE TRAINING

OUTRIGHT NOR PAY TRAVEL AND LIVING COSTS DUE TO EXPENSE  
INVOLVED. SENEGAL'S MILITARY BUDGET IS STRAINED AT  
PRESENT AND WILL PROBABLY REMAIN THAT WAY FOR SEVERAL  
YEARS DUE TO EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS.  
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